

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
concerning  
TRIENNIAL REVIEW FOR THE  
SACRAMENTO RIVER AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASINS

This Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is beginning the process of reviewing its Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Valley Region, Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan). This Basin Plan covers the watersheds of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Rivers. The Basin Plan identifies beneficial uses of surface water and groundwater, establishes water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses, and describes an implementation plan to achieve the objectives. Both State and Federal laws mandate the periodic review and update of Basin Plans. Because reviews are conducted approximately every three years, this review process is termed the "Triennial Review."

The Regional Board will hold a public workshop to receive comments on which basin plan issues deserve review and on establishing priorities for addressing the basin planning issues that are identified in this review process. The public workshop is tentatively scheduled as follows:

Date: 27 or 28 January 2005 (please contact the Regional Board office two weeks prior to the meeting for the exact date)  
Time: 8:00 am  
Place: Regional Water Quality Control Board office  
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Regional Board staff has identified water quality issues proposed for consideration during this review. Some of these issues were identified during previous triennial review efforts, while others have been suggested more recently by interested persons or by Regional Board staff. Following is a partial list of water quality issues.

**Effluent Dominated Water bodies:** Effluent dominated water bodies are either ephemeral or low-flowing streams that are predominately made up of wastewater for all or part of a year. Since such water bodies have limited dilution available, permit requirements are typically more stringent for discharges to such water bodies in order to protect beneficial uses and comply with objectives. Issues include the determination of appropriate beneficial uses and water quality objectives for these water bodies and costs of compliance.

**Drinking Water Policy:** The Central Valley waters provide drinking water supplies to more than 65 percent of California's population so there is a need to develop a drinking water policy to assure the reasonable protection of Central Valley source water. In 2004, the Regional Board resolved to develop a drinking water policy based on the best available science that is cost-effective and feasible to implement.

**Total Maximum Daily Load Allocations (TMDLs):** The Regional Board has listed the following water bodies on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list as high priority issues: salinity and boron in the San Joaquin River; diazinon or chlorpyrifos in the San Joaquin River and the Delta; mercury in Cache Creek and the Delta; and dissolved oxygen in the San Joaquin River. TMDLs are being developed by staff to address these impairments. TMDLs may require revision to beneficial uses, water quality objectives or policies on implementation. Resources are not available to complete all the basin planning work needed on these high priority TMDLs. In addition, there are insufficient resources to address the list of TMDLs that are not a high priority.

**Bacteria Objectives:** The current water quality objective for bacteria is based on US Public Health Service recommendations from the 1960s. Since 1986, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has recommended the use of either enterococcus or E. coli as bacteria indicators of pathogenic organisms in recreational waters. In 1998, the USEPA Administrator signed the National Beach Plan that calls for all states to adopt bacteria standards that are consistent with current EPA guidance by 2003. The Regional Board adopted bacteria objectives consistent with the USEPA criteria in 2002 but has not submitted the amendment to the State Board because of concerns regarding the relationship between the current fecal coliform indicators and the new E. coli indicators.

Other issues are:

- Water Quality Objectives for Carbofuran, Malathion, Methyl Parathion, Molinate, and Thiobencarb; and Diazinon in the Sacramento and Feather Rivers
- Policy for On-site Disposal Systems
- Temperature Objectives to Protect Spring Run Salmon and Steelhead
- Regulatory Actions in Agricultural Dominated Water Bodies and Agricultural Conveyance Facilities
- Need for Groundwater Survey and Control Policies for Discharges to Groundwater.
- Ammonia Objectives
- Chlorine Objectives
- Beneficial Use Identification, both including additional designations in the Beneficial Uses Table and including additional categories of uses in the Beneficial Uses Table
- Re-evaluation of sediment guidelines

In order to prepare for the workshop, you may submit written comments by **10 January 2005** on Basin Planning issues the Regional Board should consider in this triennial review. Comments should be submitted to Betty Yee, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. In the comment letters, please provide sufficient background information to support adding or deleting an issue from the list and recommendation on the priority that should be given to that particular issue. At the workshop, staff will summarize the written comments and interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Regional Board.

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Following the workshop, staff will review oral and written comments and prepare final recommendations in a workplan for Regional Board consideration at a public hearing tentatively set for its regular June 2005 meeting. Staff will identify which issues are expected to be addressed in the next three years with existing resources and which require additional resources. The workplan will be available for comments prior to the hearing.

Questions regarding this review should be directed to Betty Yee at (916) 464-4643 or [byee@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:byee@waterboards.ca.gov). The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 464-4839 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

/s/

Kenneth D. Landau, Assistant Executive Officer

17 November 2004